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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/931,168	08/17/2001	Michael Dwinnell	85045-0002	1456

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EXAMINER	
GREIMEL, JOCELYN	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3693	

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/931,168	DWINNELL, MICHAEL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jocelyn Greimel	3693	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 August 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-35* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-35* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/19/02*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's application filed on August 17, 2001, which claims the benefit of application 60/286,002 filed on April 25, 2001. Claims 1-35 are being examined.

Specification

2. Claims 1-35 are objected to because of the following informalities: the numbering of the claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126. There are two claims numbered "30" and appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> > (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-25, 27-30(b) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mahoney et al (US Patent No. 5,819,271, hereinafter Mahoney). In reference to

claim 1, Mahoney discloses a network for providing information and data access on demand to users regarding activity at remote locations, the network comprising: at least one remote site system, the remote site system being located at a remote location and adapted to capture live multi-media information and data and then combine said information and data into digital streams (col. 3, lines 45-67, col. 4, lines 20-28; col. 6, lines 12-51; col. 8, lines 42-63); a central collection and distribution system, the central system adapted to receive streams of digital information and data electronically from said remote site system, store digital information and data according to a location of origin, and transmit said received streams or stored digital information and data upon demand (col. 5, lines 48-67; col. 6, lines 12-51; col. 7, lines 20-37; col. 8, lines 42-63; col. 11, lines 16-53); and at least one client device operable by a user, said client device being located remotely from remote site system and adapted to electronically communicate with said central system wherein the client device allows the user to access and view streams as they arrive at the central system and to access and view stored digital information and data (col. 6, lines 12-51; col. 11, lines 16-53).

5. In reference to claims 2 and 21-22, Mahoney discloses a network wherein the user is an investor interested in activities occurring at a remote location, and wherein the central network allows the investor to use the client device to invest in ventures associated with the activities; and wherein the activities comprise oil and gas well drilling, and wherein the user is selected from the group consisting of financial investors in well drilling or managers of drilling activities; and wherein managers can be oil well

operators (col. 3,lines 45-65; col. 7, lines 20-37; col. 17, lines 39-57; col. 18, lines 37-53).

6. In reference to claims 3 and 5, Mahoney discloses the network in uses for corporations which could include industries selected from the group consisting of oil and gas drilling, ranching, construction, crop production, mining and forestry (col. 3, lines 45-65).

7. In reference to claims 4, 6-7 and 23, Mahoney discloses a network wherein a multi-media information comprises: video footage of activities taking place at the remote site; wherein multiple cameras are utilized to record multiple camera angles of the activities at each remote site; video footage of activities taking place at a remote oil and gas drilling location; and video footage of activities taking place at a remote location (col. 7, lines 20-46).

8. In reference to claims 8, 15-17 and 19, Mahoney discloses a network further comprising a plurality of said remote site systems: each remote site system located at one of the remote locations; each remote site system being located at one of the remote locations, and wherein the event advisor customizes said the parameters for each remote location; the remote site system sends the digital streams to a central system in real time over a satellite transmission network; comprises electronic data capture and transmission equipment integrated into a portable trailer, the equipment comprising a

multi-media information and data capture server, a power source and an electronic communications device; comprises a plurality of cameras such that the user can access multiple feeds of multi-media information for a given remote location (col. 3,lines 45-65; col. 7, lines 20-37; col. 17, lines 39-57; col. 18, lines 37-53).

9. In reference to claims 9-14 and 18, Mahoney discloses a network wherein: the streams and information and data allow the user to monitor activities taking place at the remote location make decisions in light of said monitored activities; the user is a manager or investor; client devices are electronically connected to the central network via the Internet; stored information and data are time stamped so as to allow the user to access stored information and data according to a past time period of interest; the users can access an event advisor to instruct the central system to monitor the streams as they arrive for indications of the occurrence of an event of interest; the event advisor is adapted to provide user-selectable event parameters representing potential events of interest and wherein the event parameters are customized according to activities taking place at the remote location; the electronic communications device comprises a VSAT satellite dish and transmitter/receiver.

10. In reference to claim 20, Mahoney discloses a method for providing users with on demand access to information and data gathered from remote sites, the method comprising: collecting multi-media information and data at each remote site and compiling the information and data into a digital stream at each remote site, the multi-

media information comprising video of activities taking place at the remote sites; transmitting the digital streams from each of the remote sites to a central collection and distribution system; and re-transmitting a particular digital stream that originated from a requested remote site from a central collection and distribution system to a requesting user upon demand wherein the requesting user requests, receives and uses the digital stream with a computing device (col. 3,lines 45-65; col. 7, lines 20-37; col. 17, lines 39-57; col. 18, lines 37-53).

11. In reference to claims 24-25 and 27-28, Mahoney discloses the method comprising: electronically archiving each digital stream at the central collection and distribution system as the streams are received such that the users can access streams from past time periods upon demand; electronically storing each digital stream at a remote site prior to transmitting the digital streams to the central collection and distribution system; the computing device is electronically connected to said central collection and distribution system via the Internet; and time stamping the digital streams as they arrive at the central collection and distribution system so as to allow the users to access the multi-media information and data according to a past time period of interest (col. 7, lines 20-46; col. 9, lines 9-31).

12. In reference to claims 29-30(a), Mahoney discloses the method comprising receiving instructions from a user instructing the central collection and distribution system to monitor the digital stream as it arrives for indications of the occurrence of an

event of interest; and wherein said central collection and distribution system is adapted to provide user-selectable event parameters to said given user representing potential events of interest whereby the instructions are made by the given user by selecting potential event parameters relevant to the event of interest (col. 3,lines 45-65; col. 7, lines 20-37; col. 17, lines 39-57; col. 18, lines 37-53).

13. In reference to claim 30(b), Mahoney discloses a network adapted to provide users with on demand access to information and data gathered from remote sites regarding activities at remote sites, said network comprising: means for capturing said information and data from remote sites, the means for capturing live multi-media information and data from remote sites and compiling the multi-media information and data into digital streams; means for sending the compiled digital streams from remote sites to a central collection and distribution system; the central collection and distribution system comprising means for receiving the digital streams from remote sites, means for storing received digital streams according to a time stamp and location of origin, and means for transmitting the received streams or stored digital streams upon demand; and means for the users to electronically communicate with said central and distribution system, the means for communicating including a client device being located remotely from the remote site and adapted to electronically communicate with the central collection and distribution system wherein the client device allows the user to access and view live streams as they arrive at the central collection and distribution system and

to access and view stored digital streams (col. 3, lines 45-65; col. 6, lines 12-51; col. 7, lines 20-37; col. 11, lines 16-53; col. 17, lines 39-57; col. 18, lines 37-53).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham* **v.** *John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

16. Claims 26 and 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahoney as applied to claims 1, 20 and 30 above, and further in view of Yurino et al (US Patent No. 6,810,386, hereinafter Yurino).

17. In reference to claim 26, Mahoney discloses a method where information is transmitted to remote sites to the central collection and distribution system. Mahoney does not disclose a method wherein the transmitting step utilizes satellite transmission.

However, Yurino discloses a method wherein the transmitting step utilizes satellite transmission (col. 2, lines 30-62; col. 3, lines 5-36). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine satellite transmission to the transfer of corporate information in Mahoney (in detail above). The motivation would be to increase the timely realization of company information to the user using a reliable method that is common in the art.

18. In reference to claims 31-34, Mahoney discloses a network for information transfer; wherein the user is an investor interested in said activities occurring at at least one of the remote sites, and wherein the central network allows the investor to use the client device to invest in ventures associated with said activities; wherein the multi-media information comprises video images of said activities; and wherein the activities comprise oil and gas drilling at the remote sites. Mahoney does not disclose the transmission of information wherein the means for sending and means for receiving electronically is via satellite data transmissions. However, Yurino discloses a method wherein the transmitting step utilizes satellite transmission (col. 2, lines 30-62; col. 3, lines 5-36). It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine satellite transmission to the transfer of corporate information in Mahoney (in detail above). The motivation would be to increase the timely realization of company information to the user using a reliable method that is common in the art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jocelyn Greimel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3734. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached ay (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jocelyn Greimel
Examiner
July 31, 2006

ELLA COLBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER